

Volume 5, Issue 1  
Spring 2006



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# The DE-Litter Letter

## Delaware's Adopt-A-Highway (AAH) Program

## Little Activity Leaves Lingering Litter— Roads Looking Lackluster

Every other year in March, I take stock of our road adoptions and see just how much clean up activity (or little activity) we are having on our roadways. This is known as a Comprehensive File Review, and it has begun for 2006.

I'm happy to report that 52 percent of our groups are actively cleaning their roadways. However, I'm unhappy to report that 48 percent of our AAH groups have not cleaned their two-mile stretch of roadway since 2004. Not sure where you stand? If your group needs to submit an activity report, you will receive a notice with this newsletter. (For those groups that do cleanups regularly, but do not usually submit an activity report, please submit one now to ensure continued participation).

DelDOT completely understands that cleaning a littered roadside is not a high priority on your to-do list. However, spring is the time when we ask volunteers to come out and make an extra effort.

To make it a little more worth your while, take a look on Page Two of this newsletter to see how you can get a free gift for doing your clean up. I'm doing all I can this year to inspire each group to care for their adopted road, and ultimately make our roads look better.

Thanks for your support and let's "Imagine A Litter-Free Delaware."

*Tina Shockley—AAH Program Coordinator*

## Do A Clean Up This Spring and Summer, Get A Thank You Gift

We are really hoping that many, if not all, of our AAH volunteers will be cleaning up their roadways this spring and summer. Just to show our thanks for your support of the program, the following thank you gifts will be awarded accordingly for completed cleanups April-August 2006. **(Please note a completed activity report must be submitted in order to receive the free thank you gift):**

- Conduct a clean up and submit an activity report dated **April 2006** and the contact person for your group will receive a DelDOT calendar signed by DelDOT's Tim O'Brien, whose 39 years of photographs adorn the pages.
- Conduct a clean up and submit an activity report dated **May 2006** and the contact person for your group will receive a pin in the shape of a puzzle piece, noting that they are an important piece of the DelDOT puzzle.
- Conduct a clean up and submit an activity report dated **June, July or August 2006** and the contact person for your group will receive a package of notecards featuring historical DelDOT photographs.

Items will be sent out at the beginning of the following month (May for the calendars, June for the pins, July, August & September for notecards).

Activity reports can be sent to DelDOT, AAH Program, P.O. Box 778, Dover, DE 19903-0778.

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**2nd Annual Clean Up Delaware Day is being planned for Saturday,  
September 30, 2006. Mark your calendars!**

## Trashy Roadsides Welcome More Trash

The next time you are riding down the road, take a minute to notice the roadsides. Yes, the grass is turning a little greener, the sun may be shining, but what do you really notice? The trash on the roadsides — that is what I noticed on a recent trek out of the office. Soon my phone will be ringing with people asking, “Why is Delaware so trashy? It’s just plain ugly.”

Spring is officially here and that means cleanup season is too. Roadsides are in desperate need of being cleared of litter that has been exposed to the elements for months. Unfortunately, this is just the beginning. Because not only do we need to remove the old litter, but warmer, longer days will only bring more of the ugly stuff.

Trashy roadsides only serve as a welcome mat for more trash. We all need to work together to clean up Delaware’s roadways.

This spring we’d like to specifically get high-visibility areas cleaned up. Therefore, **groups that have adopted main roadways through our state (such as Route 1, Route 113, Route 13), are asked to come out early this spring and clean their roadways.** Remember to clean your adopted stretches periodically as needed (but at least two to three times per year) and submit activity reports. These activity reports are vital to your adoption remaining active. (See “Little Activity....” - Page 1)

***Groups that have adopted....Route 1, Route 113, Route 13 are asked to come out early this spring and clean their roadways.***

## From The Desk Of DelDOT Secretary Carolann Wicks

Dear Volunteer:

First, a big thank you for your willingness to give of your personal time and energy to keep Delaware’s roadsides clean and beautiful.

In today’s busy world, picking up someone else’s trash is not a priority. Fortunately, there are people like you who care enough about our environment to make a difference. Roadside cleanups are so important in making our state cleaner, safer and healthier.

Secondly, know that you are not alone in your quest for a cleaner Delaware. I am committed to doing what it takes to get our state cleaned up—be it utilizing more prison labor to clean our road side areas or making sure our own DelDOT employees make litter removal a priority. Together we will clean up Delaware!

Signed,

Carolann Wicks  
Secretary

## DelDOT Recruits New Volunteers

Roads are in such great need of being cleaned, that DelDOT has decided to recruit a new species of volunteers. Yes, the family dog can now join you and receive credit for picking up roadside litter. Be sure to keep your dog safe by having him / her on a leash and in a safety vest.



AAH Volunteer Joan Muffler sent in this photo. Her schnauzer “Babe” loves to pick up plastic bottles on their walk. Sometimes she carries them all the way home. Babe will be receiving her very own safety vest as a reward for her efforts. Thanks “Babe” for keeping the neighborhood clean!

## Trashy Tidbits



The National Adopt-A-Highway Program recently sent out an e-mail about a **volunteer that was recently killed while doing a clean up in Michigan.** This is the fifth death in the history of the program nationwide. This should make us all a little more aware of safety when conducting cleanups. For this and other national AAH information, log on to [www.okladot.state.ok.us/public-info/beauty/aahindex.htm](http://www.okladot.state.ok.us/public-info/beauty/aahindex.htm)

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Check out [www.deldot.gov](http://www.deldot.gov) and visit our Media Gallery page for great photos. If you’ll be out cleaning your stretch of roadway, and we’ll try to arrange to have a photographer there. **You too could be featured on our [www.deldot.gov](http://www.deldot.gov)!**

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**School Anti-Litter Presentations** are still being conducted in elementary schools this school year. If you know of a elementary classroom that would like this presentation, please contact me at (760-2080).

**Check us out at the New Castle Community Services First Annual Earth Day Celebration, Saturday, April 22, 2006, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Carousel Farm Park off of Route 7 in Newark.**